

Nycticorax griseus may serve as a typical Heron upon which to hang the description of such slight divergences from the normal as exist. Reckoning as the last tracheal ring that from which the pessulus arises in front, the intrinsic muscles, which are narrow and do not fan out much, are attached to the third bronchial semiring; on the posterior aspect of the syrinx the last tracheal ring is incomplete, the pessulus being attached to the one in front. The widest bronchial semirings (seen laterally) are the third and fourth; they are also the last ossified ones. I can detect no difference in *Ardea cinerea*, *A. cocoi*, *A. agami*, *A. candidissima*, *Nycticorax violaceus*, and *Tigrisoma brasiliense*. In *Ardea ludoviciana* each muscle is much fanned out and almost divided into two muscles, of which one is inserted near to hinder border of rings.

6. Additional Note on the Sea-Otter.

By R. LYDEKKER, F.R.S.

[Received January 10, 1896.]

In reference to my note on the Sea-Otter (*Latax lutris*), published in the Society's Proceedings for 1895 (p. 421), I have received another communication from my correspondent Mr. H. J. Snow, of Yokohama. He therein tells me that I have misunderstood the



Sea-Otter in walking posture.

meaning of his statement that "the hind flippers are doubled back." In interpreting this as meaning that they were bent

back like those of a Seal, I found great difficulty, from the conformation of the skeleton, in comprehending how this could be effected. Mr. Snow writes me that "the hind flippers, when the Otter is travelling on shore, are brought under the body, but doubled up backwards, somewhat after the manner of the rough sketch enclosed, which, I may mention, has been drawn by a friend—who never has seen a Sea-Otter—from my description. This sketch [which forms the basis of the figure, p. 235] fairly represents the animal, but the hind quarters are not quite correct.

"The human hand will serve as a good illustration of the hind flippers of the Otter, the under part of the flipper corresponding to the palm of the hand. Imagine a hand, the fingers united by a thin web, the whole surface on both sides, with the exception of five small, black, naked spots on the balls of the finger, covered with hair. The Otter apparently has little or no muscular power in the finger part of its flippers, and when attempting to walk, or rather jump, along on shore, this part is doubled under the portion corresponding to the knuckles of the hand."

7. On the Hyoid Bones of *Nestor meridionalis* and *Nanodes discolor*. By ST. GEORGE MIVART, M.D., F.R.S.

[Received January 15, 1896.]

In a paper read¹ before the Zoological Society on March 5th last, I described the structure of the hyoids of certain Lories, and compared them with that of *Psittacus erithacus* and that of *Stringops habroptilus*.

Therein I called attention to the processes which I named *parahyal processes*, and which, so far as I have been able to ascertain, seem peculiar to the PSITTACI. I pointed out that the three genera of Lories described and figured, namely, *Eos*, *Lorius*, and *Trichoglossus*, differed from other Parrots in having these parahyal processes much prolonged and distally united, each pair forming a singularly delicate osseous structure which I termed the *parahyal arch*.

Subsequently, when considering the form of the tongue, I thought it would be very interesting to ascertain whether the two genera, the prolonged lingual papillæ of which have a certain resemblance to those of the LORIIDÆ, did, or did not, also possess a *parahyal arch*.

This question, through the kindness of Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., I have lately been able to determine by examining the hyoid structure of *Nestor meridionalis* and *Nanodes discolor*.

In the hyoid of *Nestor*, the *basihyal* (*b*, fig. 1, p. 237) is long and narrow, much as in the genera of LORIIDÆ before described. The upper end of its anterior articular surface does not project so much preaxial as does its ventral lip. The latter is narrow and pointed,

¹ See P. Z. S. 1895, pp. 162-174, figs. 1 to 6.